



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING OF THE
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
WORKING GROUP
COMMUNITY COALITION
8101 S. VERMONT AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90044**

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

6:00 PM

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (16-5515)

Attachments: [Audio](#)

Call to Order.

Chair Chodroff called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Present: Chair Carol Chodroff, Vice Chair Alex Johnson and Jose Osuna

Absent: Gabriella Holt and Don Meredith

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions. (16-5091)

The Working Group Members made brief self introductions. Chair Chodroff also requested that members of the public introduce themselves on a voluntary basis.

2. Overview of Work by the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group:

Overview of Motions by the Board of Supervisors that created this Working Group

Summary of Key Recommendations (16-5261)

Chair Chodroff provided an overview of the Working Group and the purpose for which it was established by the Board of Supervisors. Chair Chodroff explained that the Working Group is tasked with identifying the different aspects of oversight and determining what improvements should be made to the Probation Department including the relationship between adult and youth probation. Chair Chodroff also indicated that it is important to hear from members of the public who have been directly involved with the Department.

Chair Chodroff reviewed the key points of the draft recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Chair Chodroff indicated that a key point would be to determine if the existing oversight bodies should be merged or expanded. Chair Chodroff spoke about the overlaps and gaps of oversight of the Department and the need for coordination between all entities that oversee the Department and its facilities. Additional elements were highlighted such as the relationship between the adult and juvenile probation process and the unique needs of each. In addition, the Chair informed that the Working Group was also tasked with determining what the structure of an oversight commission would look like and what the responsibilities, qualifications and authority of the of the Commission would be.

Vice Chair Johnson added that the Working Group is interested in learning of systemic issues so that the proposed Oversight Commission can address the issues. Vice Chair Johnson indicated that that public input was necessary in order for the Working Group to frame their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors with information that is viable and relevant.

Attachments: [Recommendations-As of 10-18-16](#)

3. Public Testimony relative to what an effective oversight of the Los Angeles County Probation Department means personally and to the community; and ideas on how the oversight be structured. (16-5262)

Michael Lugo and Marjan Goudarzi of Homeboy Industries addressed the Working Group. Ms. Goudarzi explained that she feels that there is an epidemic within the juvenile halls of over medicating the youth and requested that the Working Group include specific recommendations regarding the protocol for medicating children to include the coordination of the Department of Mental Health and the need for ongoing communication with family members in regards to medicating their children. Ms. Goudarzi also suggested that the Office of Ombudsman be reviewed and possibly eliminated as she believes that it is currently ineffective.

Gloria Gonzalez, Gonzalo Varela, Kim McGill, Diwaine Smith, Manuel Barrios, Juan Pena, Eddie Flores and Herminia Galvez of the Youth Justice Coalition, addressed the Working Group. The aforementioned individuals each provided personal testimonies and shared their experiences with the Probation Department. In some instances some individuals were placed on probation as young as ten years old. Others indicated that they had no information initially as to why they were

placed on probation.

Kim McGill stressed the importance of having an independent Inspector General and addressed the following:

- Having an independent commission counsel;
- Obtaining subpoena powers;
- The ability of the Commission to interact with the Probation Department regarding disciplinary decisions;
- The ability to refer to the District Attorney as needed;
- The need to consolidate existing and ineffective investigative and monitoring bodies;
- A mechanism to oversee the budget;
- The ability to set, change and implement policy;
- The ability to collect and synthesize real data;
- The ability to assess effective diversion programs and services; and
- The downsizing of camps and halls.

Ms. McGill also discussed the culture of decriminalization against young offenders.

Karen Lane of Community Coalition addressed the Working Group. Ms. Lane stressed the importance of using a specific criteria to evaluate the use of funds to ensure they are truly serving the probation population. She also stated that the needs of the probation population should be met within the community and by the community.

Jimmy Wu and Todd Rubenstein of InsideOUT Writers addressed the Working Group. They each provided a brief background of the alumni program and the importance of ensuring that community based organizations be properly funded. They also stressed the need for reentry and wrap around programs in order to decrease recidivism. Mr. Wu discussed the lack of job opportunities for former offenders as one of the leading factors of recidivism.

4. Discussion of next steps and how input will be incorporated. (16-5263)

Chair Chodroff thanked all speakers for their testimony and input.

Chair Chodroff indicated that there would be another Town Hall meeting in the First District and invited members of public to attend the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Working Group.

5. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Working Group on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Working Group. (16-4988)

There was none.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment. (16-4989)

Chair Chodroff adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.